

# Maurice Hinchey NEWS

## 26<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 15, 2002

### **HINCHEY JOINS IN CELEBRATION OF WAVERLY'S \$3 MILLION AWARD**

WAVERLY - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today spoke at a luncheon held to celebrate \$3,043,400 in grants and loans awarded to the Village of Waverly by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The funds, which will be used to improve Waverly's water system, came out of a fund Hinchey had set aside for Rural Economic Area Partnership (REAP) Zones.

"This is exactly the sort of project I had in mind when I urged the Department of Agriculture to create a REAP Zone in Tioga County three years ago," said Hinchey. "These improvements will improve the quality of life here and make the area more attractive to business. I am very pleased that the village is getting the most out of its partnership with USDA and that the money I placed in the Agriculture Appropriations bill is going to good use."

The Tioga County REAP Zone was created in 1999 through an agreement between Hinchey, the Secretary of Agriculture and local leaders. The Waverly award, which Hinchey announced last month, comes from a pool of money reserved for REAP Zones, of which there are only five in the country. As a member of the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, Hinchey secured this REAP Zone "set-aside" during the appropriations process for Fiscal Year 2002.

The funding includes a low-interest loan of \$2,143,500 and a grant of \$899,900. It will be used to construct a new water storage tank, to replace four-inch mains with eight-inch mains, and to install 18-inch diameter detention piping to meet New York State Department of Health standards. The improvements are expected to eliminate health hazards, improve water distribution and storage capacity, and help attract new businesses to the village.

Upon hearing of the award last month, Mayor Terry Farish said, "This is great news. The Village of Waverly now has the chance to take full advantage of the REAP program. We'll now be able to move forward on a number of water projects that lacked funding. "